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KENT

ANNUAL REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1972

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BOROUGH OF NEW ROMNEY (KENT)

Annual Reports of the Medical Officer of Health and of the Public Health Inspector for the Year 1972

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1972.

Population

The Registrar-General's estimate of the mid-year Home Population was 3,540 which was an increase of 70 over that of the previous year.

Live Births and Birth Rate

The number of live births was 38 (15M. 23F.) which was a decrease of 32 from that of the previous year and the crude birth-rate was accordingly 10.7; after adjustment by the Registrar-General's Comparability factor which is computed from a population standardised for age and sex distribution and allows valid comparison with other Districts the rate becomes 12.7 this being lower than that of 14.8 for England and Wales.

Stillbirths and Rate

There were no stillbirths registered during the year. The stillbirth rate was accordingly nil, compared with 12.0 for England and Wales

Infant Mortality and Rate

There was one infant death (1F.) recorded during the year.

The infantile mortality rate was accordingly 26.0 compared with that of 17.0 for England and Wales.

Maternal Deaths and Mortality Rate

This rate was nil as there were no maternal deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth or Abortion and is a general index of the high standard of modern obstetric practice.

Total Deaths and Death Rate

The total number of deaths from all causes was 46 (22M. 24F) and the crude death rate was 13.0 which after adjustment by the Registrar General's Comparability Factor, as for births, becomes 12.0 compared with that of 12.1 for England and Wales.

The chief group cause of deaths was from the natural causes of death amongst the aged, i.e. Heart and Circulatory Diseases and Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System, of which there were 23 in number.

Ischaemic Heart Disease (i.e. Coronary Thrombosis and Coronary Atheroma) was the cause of 14 (5M. 9F.) of those deaths, in the following age-groups:- 1 between 45 - 54; 2 between 55 - 64; 6 between 65 - 74 and 5 over 75 years.

Coronary Atheroma of the Heart is also not an uncommon cause of death, often unsuspected in life, as revealed by post-mortem examinations.

Cancer, as invariably in previous years, was the second highest cause of deaths, of which there were 6 in the following age-groups:- 1 between 45 - 54; 1 between 55 - 64; 3 between 65 - 74 and 1 over 75 years of age. In these days of modern treatment, the disease can be treated with success, if patients would consult their Doctor reasonably early, before the disease becomes too advanced.

Cancer of the Lung/Bronchus was the cause of 2 of those deaths (2M.) in the following age-groups:- 1 between 45 - 54 and 1 between 55 - 64 years of age.

Cancer causes a relentless toll of human lives all over the world and is invariably the second highest cause of deaths of which heart and arterial diseases are chief causes; the majority of the latter cases are due to old age and Coronary Thrombosis. However, many deaths from Cancer occur in younger age-groups, usually over the age of 40 years. The majority are in all probability due to delay by patients in seeking medical advice, having regard also to the fact that the onset of the disease is insidious or latent.

It is an old adage that 'prevention is better than cure', and there is sufficient modern knowledge about the causes of some forms of Cancer to enable their prevention.

Modern surgery and X-rays and other radiations used, singly or in combination, have transformed the treatment of this group of diseases.

Almost all skin Cancers and over 80% of Cancers of the Cervix of the Uterus can be cured if they are treated early.

The other causes of death were miscellaneous and there was no death due to Infectious Disease.

Infectious Diseases

The following cases of infectious diseases were notified during the year:-

Infective Jaundice	1
Scarlet Fever	11
Measles	6
Whooping Cough	2

Measles

Measles is still endemic and prevalent although vaccination is an inhibiting factor in the prevention of larger outbreaks; the serious complications of former years are now relatively infrequent and when they do occur are usually treated successfully by specific anti-biotics.

Infective Jaundice

Only one case was notified. Outbreaks are rare due chiefly to the generally higher standards of hygiene to-day.

Scarlet Fever

Eleven cases were notified during the year. This illness is now mild and its formerly serious complications are becoming infrequent; if any do occur, treatment by a specific anti-biotic is invariably successful.

Whooping Cough

Two cases were notified during the year. In former years outbreaks of this distressful children's disease were common and there was a large number of deaths chiefly due to Broncho-pneumonia amongst infants.

Food Poisoning

There were no cases of Food Poisoning notified during the year. This fact is an excellent tribute to the invaluable routine preventive work in Food Hygiene carried through by the Public Health Inspectorate.

Tuberculosis

There were no new cases of Pulmonary or Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified during the year. New cases amongst youth are uncommon to-day compared with the relatively larger numbers of previous decades and is a reflection of the valuable work of the Tuberculosis and Mass Radiography Services, including B.C.G. vaccination. The pasteurization of milk has been the principal preventive factor.

Influenza

There was no outbreak of this dangerous infection throughout the winter.

A new era in the history of the prevalence of serious Infectious Diseases has been reached, in prevention and treatment. For example, the remarkable advance in this Century of medical science, with emphasis on the last 40 years, has prevented by vaccination and immunisation lethal and disabling infections such as Poliomyelitis, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and recently Measles and German Measles and by treatment with specific Anti-biotics and Sulpha drugs, diseases caused by bacteria such as Acute Meningitis, the Pneumonias, Puerperal Sepsis, Scarlet Fever, Erysipelas, Typhoid, Paratyphoid Fevers, and Food Poisoning etc.

All virus infections per se do not respond to treatment by the Anti-biotics or Sulpha drugs, but fortunately serious complications caused by bacteria usually respond successfully to treatment.

Vaccinations against the virus of Measles has recently been introduced, and it is expected that the biennial outbreaks which occur will be eventually controlled. Vaccination is available at the Child Welfare Clinics and from the Family Doctor.

Vaccination against German Measles has also been recently introduced for girls about 11 - 14 years which would prevent congenital malformations amongst babies whose mothers might suffer from this infection during the early months of pregnancy.

Vaccination against Smallpox was discontinued at Child Welfare Centres on the 30th July, 1971 as the Department of Health and Social Security consider mass vaccination of the child population to be unnecessary.

In conclusion, I would state that the Public Health of the District was very satisfactory during the year, and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking you for your support and interest in the work of the Department and the staff for their co-operation and efficient service.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. MARSHALL, M.B. Ch.B., D.P.H.

Central Public Health Office,
14, Church Rd.,
Ashford, Kent.

Tel. No. Ashford 24411

STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1 9 7 2

Area:-	1,514 acres.
Registrar-General's Estimate of:-	
The Resident Populations	3,540
Number of Inhabited Houses According to the Rate Books..	1.555
Rateable Value	£149,945
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	£4,071

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SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The ancient and historical Cinque Port of New Romney is today predominantly an agricultural District. There are also within the Borough the workshops of the Romney, Hythe, Dymchurch Light Railway and a few small factories. Part of the boundary is formed by the sea at Littlestone and Greatstone where there are wide expanses of sand which attract many summer visitors and holiday-makers. There is some unemployment but not of a serious nature and social conditions may generally be regarded as being satisfactory.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

		Total	M.	F.		New Romney Borough	England and Wales
1.	Live Births	38	15	23	Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	10.7 (Adjusted Rate) 12.7	14.8
	(a) Legitimate	33	14	19			
	(b) Illegitimate	5	1	4			
2.	Stillbirths	-	-	-	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still)births	Nil	12.0
	(a) Legitimate	-	-	-			
	(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-			
3.	Total live and stillbirths	38	15	23			
4.	Deaths	46	22	24	Death Rate per 1,000 resident population	13.0 (Adjusted Rate) 12.0	12.1
5.	Deaths from Pregnancy, Child-birth, Abortion	-	-	-	Rate per 1,000 live births	-	Not Available
6.	Deaths of Infants Under One Year of Age	1	-	1	Rate per 1,000 live births	26.0	17.0
	(a) Legitimate	1	-	1	Rate per 1,000 live births (legitimate)	30.0	17.0
	(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-	Rate per 1,000 live births (illegitimate)	Nil	21.0
7.	Perinatal Mortality (Stillbirths and deaths of infants under 1 week of age)	-	-	-	Rate per 1,000 total births	-	22.0
	(a) Legitimate	-	-	-			
	(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-			

Illegitimate live births percent of total live births 13%

CAUSES OF DEATH IN NEW ROMNEY BOROUGH

DURING 1972

All Causes	Males	Females
	22	24
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	2	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	2	-
Other Malignant Neoplasms	2	-
Diabetes Mellitus	1	1
Hypertensive Disease	-	1
Ischaemic Heart Disease	5	9
Other Forms of Heart Disease	2	2
Cerebrovascular Disease	3	2
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	-	2
Influenza	-	1
Pneumonia	-	3
Bronchitis and Emphysema	3	2
Other Diseases of Digestive System	-	1
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	1	-
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	1	-

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality, 1972

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths				Total Cases on Register			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	6	-	1
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
65 & upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
TOTAL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	6	-	1

There were no deaths from Tuberculosis of patients who had not been notified as suffering from this disease.

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

The following table shos figures for 1972 based on the return sent to the Department of Health & Social Security.

Year of Birth	Primary						Re-Inforcing			
	Triple Antigen	Diph./ Tet.	Tetanus	Measles	Polio-myelitis	Rubella	Triple Antigen	Diph./ Tet.	Tetanus	Polio-myelitis
1972	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1971	57	2	-	-	66	-	-	-	-	-
1970	18	5	-	5	34	-	-	1	-	-
1969	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
1968	-	1	-	2	4	-	2	5	-	3
1967	-	1	-	2	-	-	1	58	-	61
1965 - 1966	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	6	1	7
1956 - 1964	-	1	6	-	-	191	-	2	38	34
TOTAL	76	11	6	10	105	191	3	72	39	105

Smallpox vaccinations at County Clinics were discontinued as from 30th July, 1971.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY SERVICE

WEST STREET CAR PARK, NEW ROMNEY - JANUARY - JUNE 1972

EXAMINEE GROUP	FILMS TAKEN			ACTIVE TUBERCULOSIS			INACTIVE TUBERCULOSIS			CANCER OF LUNG		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
G.P. Cases	9	8	17	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Public	93	114	207	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Essential Users (Teaching & Educational Staff)	1	7	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	103	129	232	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	-

MASS RADIOGRAPHY SERVICE

WEST STREET CAR PARK, NEW ROMNEY - JULY - DECEMBER 1972

EXAMINEE GROUP	FILMS TAKEN			ACTIVE TUBERCULOSIS			INACTIVE TUBERCULOSIS			CANCER OF LUNG		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
G.P Cases	5	3	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Essential Users (Teachers & Educational Staff)	5	11	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Public	89	86	175	-	-	-	1	1	2	1	-	1
	99	100	199	-	-	-	1	1	2	1	-	1

Regular routine visits have been made by the Mass Radiogrphy Service for the convenience of the general public on the 1st and 3rd Thursday in each month from 1.15 - 2.00 p.m. at the West Street Car Park, New Romney.

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES

Year Ending 31 December, 1972

Treatment Centre - Ashford Hospital

Local Health Authority area of residence of patient	Number of new cases in the year					
	Totals all Conditions	Syphilis		Gonorrhoea	Other Genital Infections	Other Conditions
		Primary & Secondary	Other			
MARSH AREA	29	-	-	1	17	11

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

The quantity of water supplied to the area is adequate and the supply is not plumbo-solvent.

(A) Examination of Water Supplies during the Year

	Bacteriological Examination			Chemical Examination		
	No. of Samples	Satis-factory	Not Satis-factory	No. of Samples	Satis-factory	Not Satis-factory
Statutory supply undertaking	-	-	-	-	-	-
Private sources piped to dwellings	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other private sources	-	-	-	-	-	-

(B) (i) Number of dwellings not supplied by public water mains or other adequate piped supplies ... ... Nil

(ii) Number of dwellings in the area 1,555

(C) Brief details as to extensions of water mains during the year:-

A 9" main has been installed passing through the length of the district. Intended to boost the existing supply.

(D) Action taken in respect of any form of contamination.

Some six houses with all taps supplied from the roof service tank - modified to give mains supply.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Reference to additions or improvements in respect of sewerage systems or sewage disposal works and also to new schemes constructed during the year:-

The new sewage scheme is now working well and the effluent is normally above the Royal Commission Standard.

FOOD (INCLUDING ICE CREAM AND MILK) AND FOOD PREPARING PREMISES

(i) (a) the number of food premises in the area 42

(b) the number of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955 34

(i) Retailers of Ice Cream 32

(ii) Preparation and manufacture of Sausages and Preserved Foods etc. 2

(c) the number of inspections of registered food premises ... 23

(d) the method of disposal of condemned food - Disposal to Council tip.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Number of inspections of:-

Bakehouses	Nil
Butchers and meat products manufacturers	2
Catering Establishments and Clubs	5
Dairies	7
Fish (including fried)	3
Licensed Premises	2
Slaughterhouses	-
Stalls, Itinerant Vendors and Delivery Vans	-
All other food premises	65

Number of Informal (including Verbal) Notices Served (Food and Drugs Act - Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955) 2

Number of Food Premises improved as a result of notices served ... 2

Inspection of Food and Food-Preparing Premises

(A) Brief particulars of any action taken, including inspections of meat and other foods, slaughterhouses, stalls, vehicles and food-preparing places:-

Most food has been condemned either as a result of blown tins or the breakdown of deep freezes

(B) Observations on manufacture and sale of ice cream in accordance with the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations 1947 - 1959.

No manufacture of ice cream takes place within the Borough.

Milk and Dairies
Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959

No. of registered distributors	8
No. of registered dairies	Nil

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Unsound Food Surrendered

Meat mainly tinned	187 lbs.
Fish " "	44 "
Other Foods	79 "
Total weight condemned	310 lbs.

This food was condemned either on account of blown tins or as a result of the breakdown of deep freezers.

PUBLIC HEALTH & HOUSING ACTS

Houses in clearance areas and unfit houses elsewhere

A. HOUSES DEMOLISHED	IN OR ADJOINING CLEARANCE AREAS declared under Section 42 of the Hsg. Act, 1957.	Unfit for human habitation	Number of houses	-
			Number of separate dwellings contained therein	-
		Included by reason of bad arrangement	Number of houses	-
			Number of separate dwellings contained therein	-
		On land acquired under Section 43(2) Housing Act, 1957	Number of houses	-
			Number of separate dwellings contained therein	-
		As a result of formal or informal procedure under Sec. 16 or 17(1) Hsg. Act, 1957	Number of houses	-
			Number of separate dwellings contained therein	-
	NOT IN OR ADJOINING CLEARANCE AREAS	Local authority owned certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health	Number of houses	1
			Number of separate dwellings contained therein	2
		Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts	Number of houses	-
			Number of separate dwellings contained therein	-
		Houses included in unfitness orders made under para. 2 of the Second Schedule to the Land Compensation Act, 1961	Number of houses	-
			Number of separate dwellings contained therein	-
	Number of separate dwellings included above which were previously reported as closed in pursuance of closing orders or undertakings		Reported as closed up to 31st December 1964	-
			Reported as closed since 31st December 1964	-
B. UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED IN Pursuance of Closing Orders or Undertakings	Under Sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1) Housing Act, 1957 and Section 26 Housing Act, 1961		Number of houses	
			Number of separate dwellings contained therein	-

B. UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED in Pursuance of Closing Orders or Undertakings	Under Section 17(3) and 26 Housing Act, 1957	Number of houses	-
		Number of separate dwellings contained therein	-
	PARTS OF BUILDINGS CLOSED under Section 18 Housing Act, 1957	Number of dwellings	-
C. NUMBER OF PERSONS DISPLACED	From houses to be demolished in or adjoining clearance areas		-
	From houses to be demolished not in or adjoining clearance areas		-
	From houses to be closed		-
	From parts of buildings to be closed		-
D. Number of FAMILIES DISPLACED	From houses to be demolished in or adjoining clearance areas		-
	From houses to be demolished not in or adjoining clearance areas		-
	From houses to be closed		-
	From parts of buildings to be closed		-
E. UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT	After informal action by the Local Authority - By owner		3
	After formal notice under Secs. 9 & 16 Housing Act, 1957	(a) By owner	3
		(b) By local authority	-
	After formal notice under Public Health Acts		-
	Previously included in a clearance order which has been or will be modified or revoked under Section 24, Housing Act, 1961		-
	Previously included in a demolition order which has been or will be revoked under Sec. 24 Housing Act, 1957		-
	Previously included in a closing order which has been or will be determined under Sec. 27 Housing Act, 1957		-
F. HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED (Other than unfit houses made fit) after formal notice under Public Health Acts			-
G. UNFIT HOUSES IN TEMPORARY USE (Housing Act, 1957)	Retained for temporary accommodation	Under Section 48	Number of houses -
			Number of separate dwellings contained therein -
		Under Sec. 17(2)	Number of houses -

G. UNFIT HOUSES IN TEMPORARY USE (Housing Act 1957)	Retained for temporary accommodation	Under Section 17(2)	Number of separate dwellings contained therein	-
		Under Section 46	Number of houses	-
			Number of separate dwellings contained therein	-
	Licensed for temporary accommodation under Section 34 or 53 - Number of houses			-
H. PURCHASE OF HOUSES BY AGREEMENT	Houses in clearance areas other than those included in confirmed orders or compulsory purchase orders		Number of houses	-
			Number of occupants	-

IMPROVEMENTS AND CONVERSIONS - GRANTS

The following schemes were submitted and approved for works of improvement or conversion.

Improvement Grants approved during year	13
Total costs claimed	£3,300
Approved costs	£6,117
Standard Grants approved during year	8 grants
Standard Grants refused during year	1 "
Total claimed	£560
Total costs	£1,446

INSPECTIONS - Summary of inspections made:-

Public Health Act, 1936 and Housing Act, 1957

Number of inspections of dwellings re repairs	429
Number of dwellings made fit	153
Number of inspections for purposes of Section 16/17 Housing Act (Demolition and Closing Orders)	6
Number of inspections of clearance areas	-
Number of inspections for general survey and assessment	18

Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958
Housing Subsidies and Standard Grant

Number of inspections in connection with Improvement Grants	53
Number of inspections in connection with Standard Grants	19

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 and Rents Act, 1957

Number of inspections re Certificates as to Disrepair	-
Number of inspections re Certificates as to Remedying of Defects ...	-

Housing (General)

Number of inspections re housing applications	11

Public Health Act

Number of inspections re:-

Tents, Vans and Sheds	10
Aged and Infirm Persons	17
Vermin	2
Dirty Houses	3
Offensive accumulations	-
Offensive odours	2
Nuisance from Keeping of Animals	-

NOTICES SERVED	Informal	Formal
Public Health Acts	8	-
Housing Acts	16	1

HOUSING

(i)	Number of families on Council's waiting list at the end of the year	55
(ii)	Number of Council houses built during the year	-
(iii)	Number of Private houses built during the year	51

CARAVAN SITES

Names and addresses of Licensed Sites	No. of Caravans on each Site	Estimated Permanent Population
New Romney Caravan Site, Clark Rd., Greatstone.	154	Nil

CESSPOOL EMPTYING

Two cesspool emptiers remained in constant service throughout the year. A new cesspool emptying vehicle has been ordered to replace 223 AKE.

DRAINAGE

Total number of inhabited houses (including Flats) is	1555
Total number of houses connected to the sewers	847
Number of houses not connected to the sewers	720
Number of houses connected to cesspools	700
Number of houses with pail closets	Nil

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

A Bonus Scheme was introduced February 1972 using one driver and two loaders only. This has functioned successfully throughout the remainder of the year.

DISINFESTATION

The number of houses found to be infested with vermin was as follows:-

	Bugs	Fleas	Cockroaches
Council houses	-	-	-
Other houses	-	-	-

No cases of infestation reported during the year.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 to 1959

1. Inspections for purposes of provision as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspector).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of: Inspections (3)	Number of: Written Notices (4)	Number of: Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
i. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities	-	-	-	-
ii. Factories not included in (i) which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	19	11	-	-
iii. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	19	11	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found - See next page.

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found: Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	1	1	-	-	-

PART VIII of the Act - OUTWORK - Sections 110 & 111

There are no Outworkers employed in the Borough.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

	TYPE OF PROPERTY: NON-AGRICULTURAL	AGRICULTURAL
PROPERTIES OTHER THAN SEWERS		
i. Number of properties in district	1,766	2
ii. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	29	2
(b) Number infested by:- (i) Rats	20	-
(ii) Mice	1	-
iii. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	401	-
(b) Number infested by:- (i) Rats	3	-
(ii) Mice	1	-